Heavy rain brings risk of flooding

6 July 2012 - The theme of wet weather is set to continue - with particularly persistent and heavy rain affecting parts of the UK over the weekend.

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The Met Office has issued Severe Weather Warnings for this period, and the public are advised to keep up to date with online and broadcast forecasts during this unsettled spell.

A low pressure system which has moved in from the west is set to be positioned over or close to the UK until early next week, bringing in a series of rain-bearing weather fronts and generating thundery showers at times.

Tony Waters, Deputy Chief Forecaster at the Met Office, said: "We are expecting spells of very heavy and thundery rain across a wide area of the UK in the next few days, with worst affected spots likely to be in central and northern parts of the country.

"Rainfall totals could be 20-40 mm widely across warning areas, but some places could see around 100 mm of rain through Friday and into Saturday. Given the saturated ground from the record rainfall in June, this could cause significant disruption - including difficult driving conditions and flooding in some areas."

The Met Office will be working with partners and emergency responders throughout this period to keep everyone up to date with the latest developments.

Craig Woolhouse, Head of Flood Incident Management at the Environment Agency said: "We are expecting some very significant flooding in the coming days across large parts of the country, and would strongly urge people to sign up to flood warnings, keep a close eye on the forecasts for their area and be prepared for flooding. We would also ask that people stay safe, by keeping out of dangerous flood waters and not attempting to walk or drive through it.

"The Environment Agency has already opened incident rooms and has teams out on the ground checking on flood defences and clearing any blockages in order to reduce the risk of flooding as much as possible."

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Heavy rain brings risk of flooding (YouTube transcript) (PDF, 83 kB)

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